An aerial photograph showing a Blackhawk helicopter in flight over a forest fire. The helicopter is positioned in the upper center, with a large plume of white water being dropped onto the burning area below. The fire is a large, dark, irregular shape in the center of the image, surrounded by green trees. The text "The Louisiana Citizen Soldier" is overlaid in red, with "The Louisiana" in a script font and "Citizen Soldier" in a bold serif font.

The Louisiana
Citizen Soldier

"Preserving Our Legacy"

VOL. 1 No. 3

DECEMBER 2000

*A Louisiana National
Guard Blackhawk
helicopter drops water
on fires in Allen Parish*

The official publication of the Louisiana National Guard



Louisiana Guardsmen help fight fires

Dry conditions throughout the state provided the perfect fuel for wildfires that ravaged thousands of acres of Louisiana woodland this year. Bob Odom, secretary of the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, said "these are by far the worst fires we have ever dealt with."

The blaze prompted the commander in chief of the Louisiana National Guard, Gov. Mike Foster, to declare an official state of emergency and call on Guardsmen to help fight the fires. The Guard answered the call with manpower and equipment.

Several teams of Guardsmen were activated and strategically placed in "hotspots" to supplement state forestry firefighters. Concentrating primarily in Allen, Desoto, and Mansfield parishes, the primary mission of the citizen soldiers was to prevent the reigniting of areas where the fires had been suppressed.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general, said the situation was threatening.

"As far as destruction it is devastating, there has been a real threat to life



.....
Above: A helicopter practices dropping water below before heading out to help combat marsh fires.
.....

and property," Landreneau said. "The Governor has declared an emergency and we are in full support of Commissioner Odom and his people to help wherever needed."

Odom said the Guard's involvement was a necessity.

"Without the assistance of the Louisiana National Guard, we wouldn't

have had a chance getting the fires under control," he said. "Dropping water from the helicopters has been a tremendous help."

Louisiana Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters were used to drop water directly on areas that were either too hot to approach on foot or were difficult to reach otherwise. Additionally, Guard bulldozers were used to clear areas of potential fuel and create fire breaks.

Col. Mike Brown, assistant director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, said teamwork was the

key to success in overcoming the devastating fires.

"The teamwork displayed by state, local, and parish authorities is outstanding," Brown said.

"Once again, citizens, government agencies and military personnel have shown what teamwork and cooperation can do. Working as a team, we can accomplish anything," he said.

As a result of the fires, Odom estimated approximately \$70 million dollars in property damage and timber destruction.

204th Air Traffic Services Group activated Guard's newest major command officially underway

Having completed a mandatory two-year train up period, the 204th Air Traffic Services Group is officially on the ground, or in this case, in the air!

The National Guard's newest major command is comprised of all of the Army aviation assets including the UH-60 Blackhawk, the UH-1H Huey, and the OH-58 Kiowa helicopters.

Col Palmer Sullins will command the organization which consists of approximately 500 personnel.

The 204th ATSG was formed back

in October 1999 and assumed its mission from the 29th ATSG from the Maryland National Guard.

The unit has gone through a two-year train up period during which its soldiers participated in numerous global exercises.

The unit's mission is two-fold. First, the unit is to provide Air Traffic Control command and control in a theater of operations.

Secondly, the unit will provide Army Airspace Command and Control at

several levels throughout a theater of operations.

Members of the 204th ATSG have trained at the Joint Airspace Command and Control Course which arms them with the expertise and knowledge to perform their duties with active duty counterparts.

The 204th ATSG has also been assigned MACOM duties for the aviation units in the Louisiana Guard and will play a crucial role in supporting the 256th Infantry Brigade.



Public Affairs Detachment comes home

Unit returns from Bosnia to hero's welcome from friend's, family, co-workers



Maj. Gen. Bennet C. Landreneau and Command Sgt. Maj. John Morrow greet the 102nd PAD as they redeploy from their tour in Bosnia.

After nearly seven months of active duty service in Bosnia, the six members of the 102nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment were welcomed home Nov. 3 with a grand celebration at Lakefront Airport in New Orleans.

Capt. Theresa Pleming, Master Sgt. John Sullivan, Sgt. Kevin Cowan, Sgt. Robert Whitaker, Spec. Destiny Smith and Private 1st Class Jessica Revell were activated April 6 for their Bosnian tour.

They were activated with their parent unit in the Mississippi National Guard to

provide public affairs support for the Texas National Guard's 49th Armored Division's historic peacekeeping mission in Bosnia.

These proud soldiers returned home to a hero's welcome.

The small C-12 aircraft landed at the Lakefront Airport and as Revell (the first to step off the plane) walked down the stairway, she was immediately greeted by Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau and Command Sgt. Maj. John Morrow.

A welcome home gathering of over 100



Capt. Pleming of the 102nd is greeted by anxious and excited family members.

family members and Guardsmen cheered as each of the six PAD members stepped onto home soil.

At the formal welcome home ceremony, Landreneau presented each with the Louisiana War Cross and expressed "great pride in these fine soldiers."

Also during the ceremony, Sgt. Robert Whitaker was appointed a second lieutenant in the Louisiana Guard and pinned by his father and Landreneau.

Welcome Home!!!



Gen. Landreneau addresses family members and military personnel during the 102nd PAD Welcome Home ceremony at Lakefront Airport.



Members of the 102nd PAD after receiving the Louisiana War Cross medal during their welcome home ceremony at the Lakefront Airport's Aviation Activity Support Facility #1.



Washington Artillery holds review

141st celebrates proud heritage through traditional review

The sound of canon fire could be heard echoing down the Mississippi River on Oct. 22.

It was not a re-enactment of the Battle of New Orleans, however, but the proud Washington Artillery strutting their stuff on the Jackson Barracks Parade Field.

Each year, the 141st Field Artillery Battalion pays respect to their historic lineage in the form of a review.

The Washington Artillery had its proud beginning in New Orleans 162 years ago.

It is the oldest militia unit in the state of Louisiana and the oldest Field Artillery Battalion outside the original thirteen colonies.

Since that time, it has served with distinction in our country's wars and it has seen lively action in numerous important military campaigns.

Maj. Jordan T. Jones was commander of troops for the review and Maj. Russell L. Hooper, commander of the 141st, served as director of ceremonies.

Highlights of the program included a fireworks display during the national anthem, a canon salute, and a full Pass in Review with the Color Guard dressed in the "Minuteman"



Alpha Battery marches in front of the reviewing stand during the Artillery Review Ceremony.

traditional uniform.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard, was guest speaker for the event.

Landreneau said "the Washington Artillery has remained a shining example of the ideals of duty, honor, and country. ... This great unit was

selected for early modernization because of the soldiers before us today, because of their combat readiness and their warrior spirit."

Also attending the review was the Washington Artillery Association Board of Managers and members of the Washington Artillery Veteran's Association.

Army aviators provide operational support

Operational Support Airlift is provided by Louisiana's fixed-wing unit, the State Flight Detachment 38.

It is part of the Operational Support Airlift Command, headquartered in Fort Belvoir, Va.

SFD 38 flies the C-12 aircraft which was upgraded earlier this year to include four-bladed propellers, a new Flight Management System, Electronic Flight Instrumentation

System and Terminal Collision Avoidance System.

The upgrades resulted in a new designation as the C-12T3. All OSA pilots have completed qualification training on

the C-12T3.

Last June, SFD 38 command pilot Chief Warrant Officer Everett G. Molony completed a nine-month deployment in Europe supporting Operation Joint Forge. Molony flew over 500 hours of operational support airlift for DOD personnel in Bosnia, Croatia and Macedonia.

SF38 supports Louisiana National Guard commanders and staff throughout the year.

During the Fort Hood exercise this summer, many OSA flights were conducted to support





527th Engineer Battalion changes command

A ceremony marking the change of command for the 527th Engineer Battalion was held Sept. 16 at the Memorial Armory in Ruston.

Lt. Col. Ronnie D. Stuckey said farewell to members of the 527th as he prepared to move to his new position as the Administrative Officer of the 225th Engineer Group.

Under Stuckey's watchful eye, the 527th has enjoyed years of success to include service in Saudi Arabia as part of Operation Desert Storm and a move from Bossier City to the new Memorial Armory in Ruston.

Returning from a tour with the National Guard Bureau, Lt. Col. David Aycock was welcomed as the new battalion commander.

Aycock is no stranger to the engineers and has held numerous positions within the battalion in addition to serving with the 527th in the Gulf War.

In his comments to the battalion, Aycock stated that he was "proud and honored to command such fine soldiers."

At Right: In a formal passing of the colors, the 527th Engineer guidon is passed to Lt. Col. Ronnie Stuckey.



At Left: The out-going and in-coming commanders of the 527th Engineer Battalion prepare to transfer command.

528th Engineer Battalion reorganizes



Sarah Eilts sings the National Anthem during the 528th reorganization ceremony.

A ceremony marking the reorganization of the 528th Combat Engineer Battalion was held Sept. 16 at the Monroe Armory.

The 528th, formerly a corps wheeled battalion, has now transitioned back to a combat heavy battalion. Simply put, the 225th Engineer Group now enjoys a parody of combat heavy assets.

Additionally, the reorganization will increase the unit's strength by approximately 100 positions, giving the battalion the ability to continue to expand its mission as well grow in its involvement with military and community projects.

The 528th has a history and lineage that goes back 200 years to the Ouachita Company of Infantry in 1786. In 1803, it was known as the Ouachita Company of Cavalry and in the middle 1800s it became a battalion of the 19th Louisiana Regiment.

Maj Gen Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard and guest speaker for the event, said he was "excited for what the future holds in store for this proud battalion."

Landreneau went on to thank the members of the Monroe community for their continued support of the 528th and the Louisiana National Guard.



.....From the Frontlines.....

TAG looks back with pride, forward anxiously

As we move into the new Millennium and the Guard pushes forward, it is fitting for us to reflect upon our successes in the year 2000 while keeping future goals in sight.

I am very proud of all that we, as an organization, have accomplished over the past year. We continue to grow as a military force as well as a foundation within Louisiana communities.

Regarding our wartime mission, your outstanding performance during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise at Fort Hood, Texas, over the summer further established the ability of the Louisiana National Guard to come together — forming a Task Force and fully meeting this large logistical and operational challenge.

This paved the way to ensure that all of us — especially the 256th Brigade — have the chance to maximize the training opportunities available at the NTC.

To me, the great success of this mission illustrates not only how well we work together but that we are among the finest National Guard organizations in the country. I look forward to showcasing our Guard again at the National Training Center.

It is with great pleasure and enormous pride that I welcome back the soldiers of the 102nd Public Affairs Detachment and the airmen of the 159th Fighter Wing from their overseas missions.



**Maj. Gen. Bennett C.
Landreneau**

In April, the 102nd geared up to head to Bosnia for a seven-month peacekeeping mission, Operation Joint Forge, from which they recently returned. Their success while in Bosnia has etched a place in history for the Louisiana National Guard.

In October, the 159th Fighter Wing continued Louisiana's presence in the Gulf by supporting Operation Southern Watch. While deployed, the wing patrolled the no-fly zone.

Your accomplishment of these missions brings great credit upon you and the state of Louisiana. Job well done!

Earlier this year, the 225th Engineer Group completed its mission in Belize, Central America, as the lead element for Task Force Pelican, New Horizons 00. From January to May,

Louisiana Guard engineers, along with Marine Corps engineers and engineers from the Mississippi National Guard rotated in two-week increments to build six schools. As always, you did an outstanding job!

I am equally proud of the steps we have taken in furthering our involvement with local communities and the youth of our state.

From helping to fight fires to conducting record-setting blood drives, and from teaching our elementary children to reach for the stars to yet again being named the Best All-Around Youth Challenge Program in the nation, the Louisiana National Guard continues to be a shining example of community spirit.

I look forward to what the future has in store for us with much anticipation. I know that whatever looms on the horizon are challenges to which the Louisiana National Guard will rise.

Our two primary goals for 2001 are in the areas of personnel readiness and quality of life. These two areas are inseparably intertwined and are of the utmost importance to our continued success. Each of you is a valuable asset to this organization. Our strength lies in the dedication and commitment of our people.

The National Guard is often referred to as a "family" and this is perhaps the perfect word to describe the atmosphere upon which we must continue to build. I urge each of you during this holiday season to relax and make the most of time off. Please, if you will be traveling, be safe.

Lastly, from my family to yours, Happy Holidays and may God Bless each and everyone one of you.



Governor congratulates soldiers, airmen on jobs well done



Dear Soldiers:

As the National Guard's birthday approaches, I'd like to take this opportunity as your Commander in Chief to express my sincerest thanks. To the soldiers and airmen of the Louisiana National Guard, I applaud your selfless service and commitment in keeping with the proud reputation for which your organization is renowned.

I understand the unique demands that your service in the Guard places on you and your families. It truly takes a special kind of person to be successful in two careers, but you do it well and you do it out of love for the Guard and our state. Furthermore, I want you to know that I deeply appreciate your sacrifice and your dedication to serve the state of Louisiana as its citizen soldiers.

Citizen soldiers have been at the heart of our military tradition since before our nation was founded. Our earliest military forces were com-



**Governor
Mike "M.J."
Foster**

prised of militia men; ordinary citizens such as farmers, teachers, grocers and civic leaders. They were friends and neighbors who drilled together in peace so they would be ready in times of need. In you, this proud tradition lives on today.

Over the past year when the alarm sounded, you transformed from citizens to soldiers to help your neighbors in need. Without question and without hesitation you answered the call. Whether it was responding to the fires of Allen and DeSoto parishes or to the ice storms of Jackson and Union

parishes, you stood shoulder to shoulder protecting our communities.

In 1999, the Legislature of Louisiana recognized your constant state of readiness and vigilance by proclaiming December thirteenth Louisiana National Guard Day, in conjunction with the birthday of the National Guard in America.

Thank you again for your special service — and please pass on my appreciation to your families and employers for their continued support. Our great Guard is one of the finest in the nation and even stronger because of them.

In closing, Alice, and I join Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau and Dolores, in wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Signature of Governor Mike 'M.J.' Foster
Mike "M.J." Foster, Jr.
G-18



SERGEANT'S TIME

State CSM praises enlisted for hard work

With the Holiday Season coming upon us, I'd like to take some time to thank you and your soldiers for the support and hard work you do each day for the Louisiana Army National Guard.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the available downtime around the Holidays.

Everyone in the Louisiana National Guard should utilize this time to recharge, spend time with families, and remember what the season is all about and to make sure we do it safely.

We continue to ramp up and speed up the implementation of the Recruit Training Battalion.

Your enthusiasm and support encourage me. Everything remains on track and on schedule.

Personnel assignments are being made daily and our open issue list is dwindling.

We will be on time and I believe we will obtain the results that the



**Command
Sergeant Major
John R. Morrow**

TAG desires from this program.

I am also proud of being able to announce the new Command Sergeant Major/Sergeant Major/First Sergeant of the Year Program for the LA Army National Guard.

On October 28, 2000, in Alexandria, Louisiana the first CSM/SGM/1SG Awards Banquet was held to recognize the outstanding Command Sergeant Major and First Sergeant in the LA Army National Guard.

The Command Sergeant Major of the Year for the Louisiana Army National Guard was CSM Leo McCann of the 1088th Engr Bn.

CSM McCann received the CSM James L. Cook Award and an MSM from our Adjutant General.

Our First Sergeant of the Year winner was First Sergeant John Kling of Company C, 205th Engr Bn.

He received the First Sergeant Jerry Galloway Award and an MSM from the Adjutant General.

Both of these NCO's are outstanding and a credit to the Louisiana National Guard for the State of Louisiana and the United States.

I am also pleased to announce the winners of Soldier of the Year and NCO of the Year.

The Soldier of the Year is SPC Jerry Sonnier of Company C, 2nd Bn 156th IN (M).

Our NCO winner was SSG Trey White of the 199th Leadership Regiment, 1st NCOA.

These individuals will represent Louisiana in the Fifth Army Competition early next year. Thanks to every NCO and Officer in the LA Army National Guard.

I am proud of what you do and how you do it.

The Louisiana Citizen Soldier

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Units or individuals who wish to submit

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Looking Ahead

In March, look for the first issue of "The Louisiana Citizen Soldier" in the new Millennium!

It will contain the latest stories and photos on what you, the soldier, is doing out there for our Great Guard.

Look for stories on these events and more in the next issue of "The Louisiana Citizen Soldier:"

- Jackson Barracks Tour of Homes
- Youth Challenge Program update
- National Training Center update



Gulf War veterans reunite

Guard sponsors 10-year reunions statewide

Ten years have passed since the Louisiana National Guard's involvement in Operation Desert Storm.

The Gulf War impacted all of us but for the 18 Louisiana National Guard units that were officially activated, supporting our nation's efforts to restore peace was a firsthand experience.

Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general, intends to honor all members of the Louisiana National Guard who were mobilized or participated in Operation Desert Shield/Storm in the form of unit level, hometown reunions for Gulf War veterans.

Brig. Gen. Richard Averitt, assistant adjutant general of the Army National Guard, has been appointed as the action officer for the event.

The concept of the mission is to support unit level reunions, allowing soldiers to reunite in their hometown. The same hometown community that ten years ago wished them god speed and a safe return.

Several reunions have already taken place. The 527th Engineer Battalion, for example, who served directly in the Gulf, held a reunion Nov. 18. Their program included a breakfast and during the



meal, the proud engineer veterans viewed the "527th Desert Storm Commemorative Video," a 40 minute compilation of their Gulf War experience.

The reunions are taking on many different forms. The 159th Mobile Area Surgical Hospital, for example, plans to incorporate a tree planting in their program. All of the reunions share one aspect though - pride.

The Louisiana National Guard units that were officially activated are as follows:

HHC 256th Infantry Brigade
1/156th Armor Battalion
2/156th Infantry Brigade
3/156th Infantry Brigade

1/141st Field Artillery Battalion
199th Support Battalion
Troop E 256th Cavalry
256th Engineer company
159th Medical Hospital
812th Medical Company
1083rd Transportation Company
1086th Transportation Company
1087th Transportation Company
1090th Transportation Company
39th Military Police Company
3673rd Maintenance Company
527th Engineer Battalion
122nd Air Support Operations Squadron
Thank you to all who served.



Basilica promoted to Brigadier General

John P. Basilica Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. John P. Basilica Sr. of New London, Conn., was promoted to brigadier general in the Louisiana Army National Guard during a ceremony held Oct. 22 at historic Jackson Barracks.

Presiding over the ceremony, which was held in conjunction with the 162nd Annual Pass-In-Review of the "Washington Artillery," was Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, the adjutant general of Louisiana National Guard.

In attendance were members of Basilica's family, including his wife, Karen; their daughter, Kristin; and their son, Tim. Both Basilica's parents, and those of his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Anthony P. Nassetta of Cullman, Ala., were also present for the ceremony.

Basilica is currently the commander of the 256th Infantry Brigade, Enhanced Separate Brigade, one of fifteen Enhanced Combat Brigades in the Army.

The Brigade, with more than 4,000 soldiers, has battalions located in Shreveport, Lake Charles,



During the Artillery Review Col. John P. Basilica was promoted to Brigadier General by MG Bennet C. Landreneau.

Abbeville, Alexandria, Plaquemine and New Orleans.

Known as the "Louisiana Brigade," the 256th Infantry Brigade is in the final months of their train-up for a training rotation in July 2001 at the National Training Center, located at Fort Irwin, Calif.

Basilica began his army career in 1978 when he graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and was commissioned a second lieutenant.

He served over 10 years on active duty in numerous command and staff positions both stateside and abroad.

He has been a member of the Louisiana Army National Guard since 1992. Basilica has served as commander for various units in the LAARNG, including the 769th Engineer Battalion, 3rd Battalion 156th Infantry (Mechanized), 225th Engineer Group and currently serves as commander of the 256th Infantry Brigade (eSB).

Basilica has earned numerous awards and decorations and is a graduate of the prestigious U.S. Army War College.



Guard holds Fifth Annual Awards Luncheon

Over 170 tickets were purchased for this year's Awards Luncheon, a soldier recognition program that Col. Steven Dabadie, chief of staff, described as a "sold out show!"

The luncheon, a relatively new event for the Louisiana Guard, was created to provide a mechanism to formally recognize units and individuals for their outstanding achievements throughout the year.

The event was held in conjunction with the Guard's Leadership Conference, which took place Oct. 14-15 at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, Alexandria.

The luncheon was actually the last event of the conference and provided an upbeat closing to a successful weekend.

Sixty awards were presented by the adjutant general and command sergeant major

recognizing the "best of the best" of the Louisiana Army National Guard.

Some of the awards presented included:

1st place in the Combat Rifle Match – C Co, 769th Engineer Battalion

1st place in the Combat Pistol Match – 256th Infantry Battalion

1st place in the M60 Machine Gun Match – 239th MP's

NGB Supply Excellence Award – USPFO Warehouse

NGB Supply Excellence Award – 527th Engineer Battalion

Individual Chief of Staff Supply Excellence Award –

Master Sgt. Dudley Gagnard and Sgt. Bradley Morgan

NGB Maintenance Excellence Award –

MATES 71

Phillip A. Connelly Food Service Award – 141st Field Artillery Battalion

Milton A. Reckord Trophy – 769th Engineer Battalion

Kerwin Award – 769th Engineer Battalion

Draper Award – C CO, 1-156th Infantry

Battalion

Brigadier General Giering Award – Capt.

Kevin Baxter

Family of the Year Award – Spec. 1st

Class Winston and Brigitte Matejowski

TAG's Award for Excellence – Private

1st Class Brandon Willis.

Congratulations to all the proud award winners!

Senior leadership gathers to develop 2001 goals

The senior leadership of the Louisiana National Guard gathered at Point Clear, Ala., to develop and expand the 2001 goals for the Louisiana Army and Air National Guard.

The 2001 goals were initially formulated at an offsite meeting by top leadership. These goals provide the framework for objectives and action plans that will guide the Louisiana Guard into the new millennium. Goals for 2001:

1. To attain and maintain personnel readiness IAW established NGB goals and meet LANG end strength.
2. To improve the quality of life for soldiers, airmen, employees and their families.
3. To attain and maintain training readiness IAW established NGB goals.
4. To attain and maintain equipment IAW established NGB goals.

The Point Clear Strategic Goals Conference represented the second phase in goal development as senior leadership broke into teams responsible for formulating measurable objectives for each goal. These objectives are then carried out in the form of action plans.

The Goals Conference occurred from 24 thru 27 Sep 00. One of the highlights of the conference was retired Maj. Gen. Steve Siegfried, the keynote speaker.

Siegfried motivated attendees not only by delivering an inspiring message but by performing a blues song especially written for the event -- "Rock on Louisiana Guard Rock On!"



Col. Dabadie, Chief of Staff, addressing fellow officers at the Goals Conference.



Maj. Gen. Landreneau discussing the 2001 goals for the Louisiana National Guard.



DEFY: another summer success

Story by Captain John-Michael Wells
Louisiana National Guard Counterdrug Task Force

The Louisiana National Guard conducted its third residential Drug Education for Youth summer camp Aug. 7-11 at Jackson Barracks in New Orleans.

The Louisiana National Guard's DEFY program is a joint effort among the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the Louisiana National Guard Counterdrug Task Force, and the Washington Artillery, the oldest and most decorated unit in the Louisiana National Guard.

On Monday morning, 32 boys and girls between nine and twelve years old said goodbye to their parents and boarded a military bus headed for five days of intensive training, discipline, adventure and lots of learning.

Twenty minutes later, the bus entered historic Jackson Barracks, on the banks of the Mississippi River and just two miles from the site of the Battle of New Orleans.

The children exited the bus and were immediately separated into three squads and met the soldiers who guided them every step of the way during their five-day stay.

In addition to the DEFY curriculum, the Louisiana National Guard camp participants learn many life skills through extensive experiential education.

At the Pelican State Starbase classroom, a National Guard pilot taught the children the basics of flight, compass navigation and how airplanes are controlled.

The pilot then led them through a flight simulator where the children were able to take off and "fly" a single-engine aircraft over the New Orleans skyline and back to a safe landing.

With the assistance of Fatal Vision® goggles, the children also experienced how difficult it is to perform simple tasks when impaired by alcohol.

Their experience at Starbase was further enhanced when each squad had to design a safety restraint system for a raw egg "passenger" riding a space shuttle on a crash course against a wall; there were minor injuries and one fatality, but most eggs survived the ordeal.

On Thursday, the children and their



Above: The 2000 DEFY Class.



At left: The DEFY Class maneuvers on the ropes course.

mentors loaded the bus again for a full-day trip to the Gillis Long Center in Carville. There, the challenges of DEFY were raised a notch when the children had to overcome the obstacles of the National Guard Ropes Challenge Course.

Although guided by trained facilitators, the children had to rely on their own communications, teamwork, planning and leadership skills to complete the team obstacles.

After lunch, the group was off to overcome individual fears and limitations by rappelling from a 30-foot tower under the watchful eye of a rappel master and their squad leaders.

By the time graduation arrived on Friday, both the children and the camp staff experienced bitter-sweet moments of saying goodbye to new friends while looking forward to the adventures to come in Phase II.



MCCANN NAMED COMMAND

SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE YEAR

Command Sgt. Maj. Clayton "Leo" L. McCann enlisted in the Louisiana National Guard in June 1970.

He is quick to point out that while being named Command Sergeant Major of the Year is a phenomenal honor, it is one that he did not accomplish by himself.

"My soldiers helped me get this award," McCann said proudly. "This really belongs to all of them ... not me."

His duty assignments include Heavy Equipment Operator, D/769th Engineer Battalion. He was transferred to the 527th Engineer Battalion Combat Heavy, where he served as assistant S-4 NCO, Section Sergeant, Platoon Sergeant, Logistics NCO and First Sergeant.

He was later transferred to the Louisiana Military Academy as First Sergeant and was promoted to Command Sergeant Major and Commandant of the Academy before serving with the 773rd Maintenance Battalion, then on to the 1088th Engineer Battalion.

McCann graduated from the United States Army Sergeants Major Academy in 1993, Class 16, and the Command Sergeant Major Command Designate course in 1994.

McCann is the recipient of many awards including the Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal W/ Oak Leaf, National Defense Service Medal W/Bronze Star, Southwest Asia Service Medal W/Bronze Star, Humanitarian



Command Sgt. Maj. John Morrow and Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau present the Command Sergeant Major of the Year award to Command Sgt. Maj. Leo McCann.

Service Medal W/Bronze Star, Armed Forces Reserve Medal W/Gold Hour Glass Device and M device, Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Saudi Arabia), Kuwait Liberation Medal (Government of Kuwait), Louisiana Legion of Merit, Louisiana Cross of Merit, Louisiana War Cross, Louisiana Emergency Service Medal W/Bronze Fleur-de-Lis, Louisiana Longevity Ribbon W/ Silver and Bronze Fleurs-de-Lis and many more.

He is married to Norma Sue Reed. They have two children Chad and Tara, and one grandchild, Hailey. McCann and Norma reside in the Deville Community.

Sonnier chosen Soldier of Year



Spec. Jeremy Sonnier and Command Sgt. Maj. Jewell White.

Spec. Jeremy W. Sonnier, a native of Thibodaux was recently named the 2001 Soldier of the Year.

Sonnier is a 1995 graduate of Thibodaux High School.

Upon graduation, he attended Nicholls State University for one year before enlisting in the U.S. Army as an automated supply specialist.

After serving 1 ½ years on active duty, Sonnier enlisted into the Louisiana National Guard where he is a member of Co. C, 2/156th Infantry (mechanized).

He is currently a sophomore at Nicholls State where he studies Computer Information Systems.

White NCO of Year

Staff Sgt. Phillip R. White III was recently named the 2001 Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year.

White is from Vicksburg, Miss., and currently resides in Pineville.

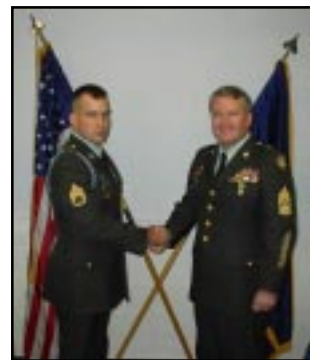
He is a 1991 graduate of Tioga High School and a 1998 graduate of Northwestern State University where he obtained a bachelor's degree.

White enlisted in the Louisiana Army National Guard Dec. 16, 1991, and attended Fort Benning, Ga., for basic training and AIT. He was a member of Bravo Company, 3/156th Infantry from Dec. 16, 1991, to Feb 22 of this year.

During his tenure with the 156th, he was a dismounted team member, Bradley Fighting Vehicle Driver and BFV Gunner.

Upon leaving the 3/156th, he joined the 199th Leadership Regiment, 1st

NCOA Battalion. White's duties include Small Group Leader and Senior Small Group Leader for the Primary Leadership Development Course.



Staff Sgt. Trey White shakes hands with Command Sgt. Maj. Jewell White.

He is the recipient of the Army Achievement Medal, NCO Development Ribbon, Army Defense Ribbon, Army Service Ribbon, Louisiana Commendation Medal, Louisiana Longevity Ribbon, Louisiana General Excellence Ribbon and the Reserve Component Achievement Medal.

He is married to the former Wendy Gail Schroeder. Together, they have two daughters, Erin Michelle White, nine years old, and Peyton Emory White, 15 months.



Soldiers' Scrapbook



A volunteer restoration group comprised of members of the Louisiana Air National Guard's 122nd Bomb Squadron completed their work on a Bell OH-58 "Kiowa" Helicopter recently. The restored helicopter was officially dedicated to the Jackson Barracks Museum in a formal ceremony Sept. 10. The ceremony included a ribbon cutting with Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau, adjutant general of the Louisiana National Guard; Col. Phillip Nuss, state aviation officer; and Clarence Eckelmann, project coordinator for the Volunteer Restoration Group.

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Above: Spec. Rice and Sgt. LaBeaud giving the gift of life during a recent Blood Drive at Jackson Barracks..

Below: Spec. Tracy Konnecker is being assisted by members of the Red Cross during the Blood Drive.





Soldiers' Scrapbook

Continued from Page 12



Members of the 141st Field Artillery fire a Pack 75 (above) for a demonstration on the levee overlooking the Mississippi (at left).



At Left: Members of the United States Army War College class 2000 -- Lt. Col. Cliff Oliver, Lt. Col. Terry Hammett and Col. Mike Appe -- present Maj. Gen. Landreneau with a portrait titled, "These Are My Credentials." The portrait depicts the World War II scene in which American Brig. Gen. Charles D. Canham called for the surrender of German Lt. Gen. Berhard-Herman Ramcke. When asked for his credentials to receive the senior officer's surrender, Canham pointed to the American soldiers behind him.



Above: Spec. Tracy Konnecker competed against Master Sgt. Michael Royer in the Dizzy Bat event during the Zephyrs Military Appreciation Night.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Below, At Right: Children Trick or Treat at the Jackson Barracks Halloween Party.



Scrapbook continued on Page 14



Soldiers' Scrapbook

Continued from Page 13



Let's Clean House!

At Right: Various members of POTO hard at work during Clean Up Day at Jackson Barracks.

At Left: Lt. Col. Oliver and members of his staff working hard to get the parking bumpers in a straight line.



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*At Right:
Presenting of the
Colors during
the 204th ATS
Activation
Ceremony.*

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Want to come play in my castle?

Below: Maj. Russell Hooper, Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau and Chief Mark Ayres cut the cake during the OMS 12 Dedication.



Maj. Gen. Landreneau assists in the ribbon cutting ceremony of the OMS 12 facility.

Scrapbook continued on Page 15



Soldiers' Scrapbook

Continued from Page 13



At Left: Maj Russel Hooper speaks during the 141st Artillery review.

At Right: First Sgt. John Kling, from C Company, 205th Engineer Battalion, was named the First Sergeant of the Year.



Kate Arbour, Katherine Veillon and Meghan Bush go on a hayride during the STARC Halloween Party.



Cadets with the Youth Challenge Program at Camp Beauregard perform a Pass In Review. This class graduated from the program Saturday, Dec. 16, and is the largest class to graduate from Beauregard with 212 cadets.



Retired Maj. Gen. Steve Siegfried performs "Rock on Louisiana Guard, Rock On!"

Saying Goodbye ...



Longtime Guardsman and former Chief of Staff Col. Randy W. Hilborn retired recently from the Guard. He was honored with a retirement ceremony during which he received many awards, commendations and commemorative gifts from friends, peers and co-workers. He is pictured with his wife Rita and Maj. Gen. Landreneau.



Louisiana Maneuvers and Military Museum Fund-raiser

Guard members and spouses who dressed in period clothing for the fund-raiser at Camp Beauregard's military museum are pictured with Maj. Gen. Bennett C. Landreneau. This was the first year the fund-raiser had been held since 1997. It was extremely successful in raising money to continue operation of the facility.